

AWARD  
WINNING!

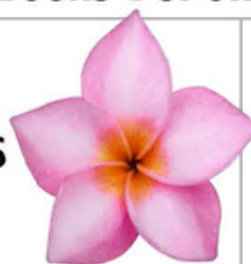
SCIENCE + ANIMALS + PUZZLES + PEOPLE + APPS + PHOTOS + BOOKS + SPORTS + A GIANT BEAR-DOG

# THE WORLD'S BEST NEWS & FACTS FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

**BIG NEWS**  
Surprise  
deal in the  
Senate  
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Discover  
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of Hawaii  
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Bake up  
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Making sense of the world



# THE WEEK Junior

## SUPER CYCLIST

Annemiek van Vleuten of the Netherlands takes the top spot in the Women's Tour de France bike race **p18**

### DID YOU KNOW?

- The 639-mile race through France lasted eight days.
- The women's event had not been held since 1989.
- Van Vleuten won the final stage by 30 seconds.

THE BEST  
MAGAZINE FOR  
CURIOUS  
KIDS







# This week's big news



Senator Joe Manchin  
of West Virginia

## DID YOU KNOW?

In 2015, 196 nations joined the Paris Agreement, which aims to prevent global temperatures from rising more than 3.6° F.



Senator Chuck  
Schumer of New York

## UN declares climate rights



The United Nations (UN, a group of 193 nations working for peace and cooperation) officially recognized on July 28 that access to a "clean, healthy, and sustainable environment" is a global human right. The UN called the declaration "historic" and urged all countries to take immediate action to protect the planet.

# Major climate deal in the Senate

US lawmakers have put forward a new bill to combat climate change (long-term changes in weather patterns, largely due to human activities). If it passes, the Inflation Reduction Act will be the most significant climate legislation in US history.

## What happened?

The bill was written by Democrats in the Senate (one half of Congress, the branch of government that makes laws), who took 18 months to finalize it because members of the party disagreed over what to include. Senator Joe Manchin, a Democrat from West Virginia, refused to vote for earlier versions of the bill because they would have raised taxes and affected the coal industry in his state. Many people thought the bill would never be completed, but on July 27, Manchin made a surprising announcement: He and Senator Chuck Schumer from New York, the top Democrat, had reached a compromise. The plan commits about \$433 billion to climate, energy, healthcare, and other programs.



The US Capitol  
building

## How will the bill address climate change?

The bill calls for \$369 billion to address climate issues. It will help lower emissions of greenhouse gases (gases that get trapped in the atmosphere

and warm the planet) and speed up the country's transition to clean energy. Tax credits will be given to companies or farms that use clean energy or reduce emissions. Families could get money back for making their homes more energy-efficient or for buying an electric vehicle. More than \$60 billion is devoted to supporting communities that are affected most by climate change. Experts say the bill could bring the US close to meeting its goal of cutting emissions in half by 2030.

## What else is in the bill?

The act provides about \$100 billion for healthcare, which will help reduce costs for low-income Americans and lower the price of medications. As a compromise with Manchin, the legislation also allows for more drilling of oil and gas in the Gulf of Mexico. Tax increases, especially for US companies that earn more than \$1 billion a year, will help the government pay for the programs.

President Joe Biden said taxes would not be raised for anyone making less than \$400,000 a year.

## How did people react?

Republicans criticized the bill for spending so much money and raising taxes. Senator Mitch McConnell of Kentucky, the Senate's top

Republican, said the bill is "not helping you put gas in your car, not helping you afford your groceries." Democrats celebrated the agreement. Senator Cory Booker of New Jersey said there was "a sense of joy that we're really doing the most significant bill on climate change in the history of our country." Biden said the US is "facing up to some of our biggest problems" and taking "a giant step forward."

## What will happen next?

When *The Week Junior* went to press, the full Senate was set to vote on the bill within a few days. A majority vote will be required to pass it. There are currently 50 Republicans, 48 Democrats, and two Independents (a third political party) in the Senate. Every Republican senator is expected to oppose the bill, which means all 48 Democrats and both Independents will need to approve it, as will Vice President Kamala Harris, who can vote when there is a tie in the Senate. Senator Kyrsten Sinema of Arizona, a Democrat who has voted against tax increases in the past, had not yet said whether she will support the new package. If it passes, it will then go to the House of Representatives (other half of Congress) for a vote. If it passes there, it would go to Biden to be signed into law.





## WHO names new health emergency

The World Health Organization (WHO, the agency responsible for international public health) has declared the hMPXV virus, known as monkeypox, to be a global emergency. More than 20,000 cases of the virus have been detected in 78 countries around the world, with about 5,000 cases confirmed in the US.

The virus was discovered in 1958 and until recently was primarily found in parts of Central and West Africa. Health officials said hMPXV mostly spreads through close physical contact. Symptoms commonly include fever, headache, back and muscle aches, and a flat red rash. People with the virus usually recover within weeks, and the risk of death is low.

Two vaccines (medicine given to prevent an illness) are available to help prevent infection in people who are at risk of the illness. The vaccines were originally created to prevent smallpox but are up to 85% effective against hMPXV. US officials have ordered nearly 7 million doses.



Dr. Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, head of the WHO



A rendering of the ISS in orbit

**FIRST CREW**  
On November 2, 2000, American Bill Shepherd and Russians Yurik Gidzenko and Sergei Krikalev became the first astronauts to live on the ISS.

## Russia to leave space station

On July 26, Russia announced that it will end its participation in the International Space Station (ISS) after 2024. The ISS is a joint project among 15 countries, including the US, Canada, Japan, Russia, and 11 other European nations.

The space laboratory orbits 250 miles from Earth and has been continuously occupied since its completion in 2000. Several astronauts from different countries live on the ISS together for months at a time. They make joint spacewalks, perform scientific experiments, and maintain the ship. NASA (the US space agency) and other partners hope to keep the ISS running until 2030.

Russian leaders said the country is pulling out of the ISS in order to focus on building its own space station. But some reports indicate

that Russia's decision is a reaction to economic sanctions (punishments) against the country by the US and other nations. These were put in place after Russia invaded Ukraine in February.

Russia's space program has also faced millions of dollars in lost income recently. Until 2020, Russia was the sole provider of the rockets used to send astronauts to and from the ISS, and other countries paid for the service. However, private space companies are now providing that service too.

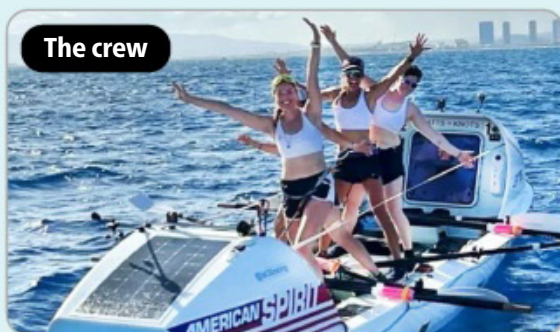
When *The Week Junior* went to press, a specific date had not been set for Russia's departure from the ISS. NASA administrator Bill Nelson told [Space.com](#) that the agency remained focused on the safe operation of the ISS and will continue to look toward the future of space exploration.



## IT'S AN AMAZING WEEK FOR

### ROWING TO A RECORD

Four women rowed more than 2,400 nautical miles from San Francisco, California, to Honolulu, Hawaii, in a record-setting 34 days, 14 hours, and 11 minutes. Rower Sophia Denison-Johnston said she felt overwhelmed "in the best way."



The crew

### A BIG BID

Astronaut Buzz Aldrin's space jacket sold at a New York City auction for nearly \$2.8 million. Aldrin wore it on the Apollo 11 mission in 1969, when he and Neil Armstrong became the first people to set foot on the Moon. Aldrin, now 92, said the jacket was "much more comfortable" than the spacesuit he changed into for the lunar walk.



The jacket

### MAKING A SPLASH

The Pony Swim, a 97-year-old tradition in Virginia, returned for the first time since the pandemic began. About 200 wild ponies that live on Assateague Island swam across a channel to nearby Chincoteague Island. The three-minute swim, watched by thousands of people, raises money for vet care for wild horses.



The wild ponies





# National news

## RECORD RAINFALL

In 2018, the Hawaiian island of Kauai had nearly 50 inches of rain in a 24-hour period.



A view of homes submerged in floodwater in Kentucky on July 28

## Heat wave breaks records



Extreme heat has hit the Pacific Northwest. The temperature reached 102° F in Portland, Oregon, and 94° F in Seattle, Washington, on July 26. Many homes lack air-conditioning because the region is typically cooler. Officials opened cooling centers and created heat action plans to help people in the future.

# Kentucky responds to flood damage

In the eastern part of Kentucky, government officials and rescue workers are working to help those in need after widespread and historic flooding devastated the area. Other parts of the country are also recovering from damage caused by extreme flooding.

## What happened in Kentucky?

Heavy rainfall (nearly 11 inches in some areas) on July 27 caused massive flooding. The deep water ruined hundreds of homes, caused at least 28 state roads to become impassable, and destroyed or damaged as many as 50 bridges. More than 25,000 homes and businesses lost power. When *The Week Junior* went to press on August 2, at least 37 people had died and rescue workers were searching for people who remained missing.

## What else happened?

Several other states, including Missouri, also experienced severe flooding. On July 26, a record level of rain—more than 9 inches in 24 hours—hit parts of St. Louis. Many residents had to leave their homes, and about 70 people were rescued by firefighters. Two people died due to the flooding. Experts said the extreme rainfall and dangerous flooding that are occurring this summer is due to climate change, the long-term changes in weather patterns, largely due to human activity.

## How are people being helped?

President Joe Biden issued a major disaster declaration for Kentucky, bringing federal relief workers and aid to the area. Andy Beshear, the

governor (top leader) of Kentucky, established a flood relief fund to help those affected. The mayor and residents of Bremen, Kentucky, a city that was devastated by a tornado last year, organized trucks full of supplies to be distributed to people living in flooded towns. Additional helicopters have been sent from Tennessee and West Virginia to help with rescue efforts. At least 10 shelters have been opened in Kentucky for people who aren't able to return to their homes.

## What will happen next?

The search for people in Kentucky will continue, power will be restored, and roads will be repaired. "The damage suffered is enormous, and recovery will be a long-term effort," Beshear said.



## WORD OF THE WEEK

### ELECTRIC

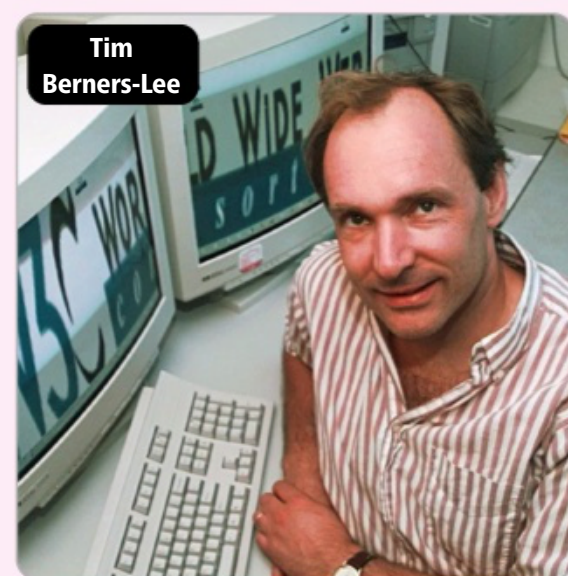
Electricity is a modern invention, but it has been studied for a thousand years. In ancient Greece, people found that by rubbing amber, or *elektron*, with a piece of cloth, they could pick up light objects, such as a feather. This electrostatic friction, called "electricity" after the Greek word for "amber," was studied through the years, eventually leading to today's electric cars.



## THE WEEK IN HISTORY

### August 6, 1991

World Wide Web opened to public  
On August 6, 1991, scientist Tim Berners-Lee introduced the World Wide Web to the public. The first website explained how to use the internet. Berners-Lee had begun creating the technology 10 years earlier, as a way to organize and share computer files. By 1992, the internet had 10 websites. By 1996, there were more than 2 million sites. Today, there are nearly 2 billion.



Tim Berners-Lee

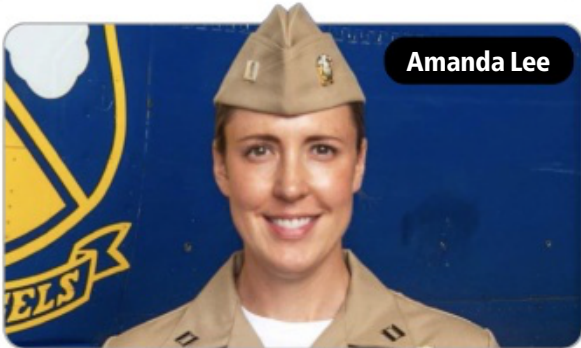




A rendering of an electric vehicle

## USPS to buy more electric vehicles

The US Postal Service (USPS) has announced that at least 40% of the new delivery vehicles it purchases will be electric. This is a significant increase from the 10% it had first committed to buying, which the Biden administration said was too low. Electric vehicles are better for the environment because they run on electricity instead of gasoline, a fossil fuel. Some of the new vehicles will begin servicing postal routes in 2023.



Amanda Lee

## First female pilot for Blue Angels

An elite US Navy squadron called the Blue Angels has selected its first female pilot, Lieutenant Amanda Lee. The mission of the flight team, founded in 1946, is to showcase the abilities of the military by performing at air shows and other events. For years, women served in the Blue Angels in a variety of ways but never as pilots. Lee will fly an F-18 fighter jet during the 2023 season.



A Choco Taco

## Fans bid farewell to Choco Taco

The Choco Taco, a beloved ice cream snack in a taco-shaped cone, is being discontinued. Klondike, the company that makes it, said challenges related to the pandemic led to the decision. The news caused an outpouring of affection from fans of the frozen treat, which has been a common offering at ice cream trucks since 1983. A Klondike representative said they would work hard to bring it back in the future.



A gallery inside the museum

**DID YOU KNOW?**

Every year on April 15, Major League Baseball celebrates Jackie Robinson Day with events and activities planned by each team.

## Jackie Robinson Museum set to open

After about 15 years of planning and building, the Jackie Robinson Museum in New York City is complete. The museum is dedicated to the life and legacy of Jackie Robinson, the first Black American to play for Major League Baseball (MLB). A ceremony was held on July 26, and the museum will open to the public on September 5.

Jackie Robinson was born in Georgia in 1919 and was a star athlete in high school and college. After serving in the US military, he began playing baseball professionally for the Negro Leagues. At that time, an unwritten rule kept MLB teams from hiring Black players.

That rule was broken when the Brooklyn Dodgers, an MLB team, recognized Robinson's talent and recruited him to play on its all-white team.

Robinson took the field for the first time on April 15, 1947. That season, despite facing racism on and off the field, he won Rookie of the Year, an award given to the best first-year player.

He went on to lead the Dodgers to six National League championships and one World Series title. In 1962, he became the first Black American inducted into the Baseball Hall of Fame in Cooperstown, New York.

Throughout his career and life, Robinson advocated for the equal treatment of Black people. He took part in civil rights protests, including the historic 1963 March on Washington led by Dr.

Martin Luther King Jr., and supported Black-owned businesses. "A life is not important except in the impact it has on other lives," Robinson once said. He died in 1972 at age 53.

At nearly 20,000 square feet, the museum contains more than 4,500 artifacts related to Robinson, including his first contract with the Dodgers, his team uniforms, and the Presidential Medal of Freedom he was awarded after his death by President Ronald Reagan. The museum also features about 40,000 historical images and more than 450 hours of video footage.



Jackie Robinson

## THE WEEK'S SILLIEST HEADLINE

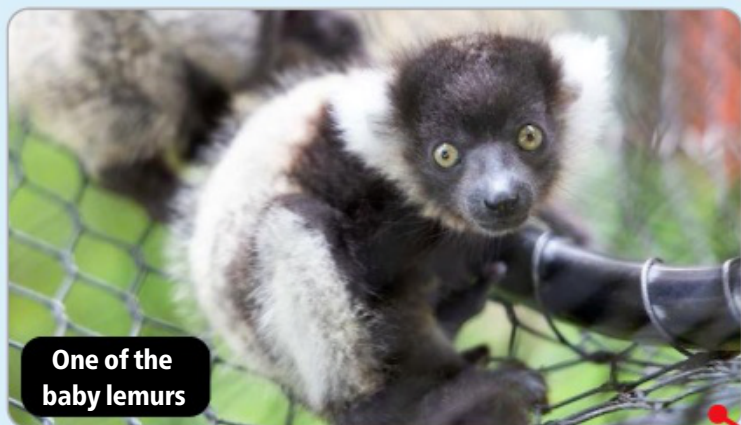
**"Nut-stealing squirrel triggers store's burglar alarm" UPI**







# Around the world



One of the baby lemurs

## County Cork, Ireland Rare lemurs are born

Fota Wildlife Park has announced the birth of three black-and-white ruffed lemurs. This species of lemur is critically endangered, which means they are at a high risk of becoming extinct. There are fewer than 250 black-and-white ruffed lemurs, which are originally from Madagascar, in the wild. The species helps to pollinate plants when drinking nectar. Other conservation parks are also trying to grow the population.



Some of the artifacts

## Mexico City, Mexico Ancient sculptures returned

Artifacts found in storage at a museum in Albuquerque, New Mexico, are being returned to Mexico, their country of origin. The figurines, bowls, and sculptures are believed to have been made in western Mexico between 300 and 600 BCE. A Mexican government official said the objects "are important elements of memory and identity for our native communities." They will be displayed at an institute of anthropology in Mexico City.



Kais Saied

## Tunis, Tunisia New powers for president approved

Tunisia's president, Kais Saied, has had his powers expanded after a referendum (public vote) on July 25. Saied can appoint a government without approval from parliament (similar to Congress) and also oversees the nation's military. Only one third of registered voters cast a ballot in the referendum, however, and critics say Saied now has too much power for one person.

## United Kingdom Rail workers go on strike

Thousands of railroad workers across the UK went on strike (stopped working as a form of protest) last week to demand higher pay, resulting in disrupted train service. The UK is experiencing the highest level of inflation (price increases) for basic goods like food and electricity in 40 years. Rail workers are planning strikes through August.

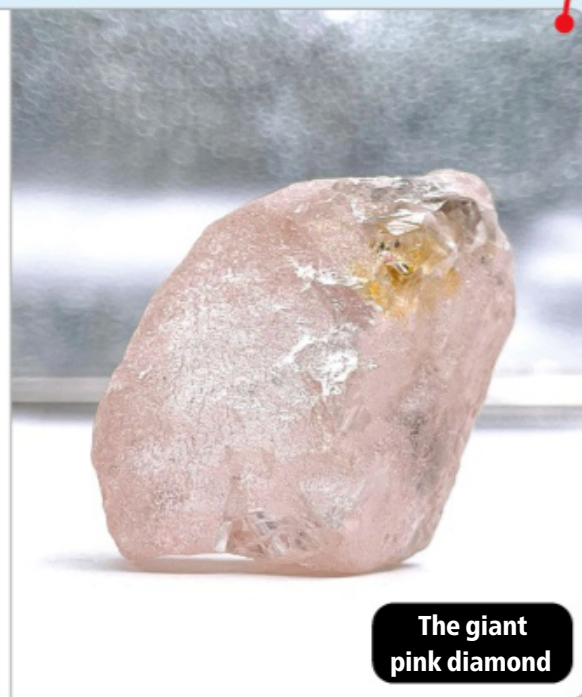


UK railroad workers



## Lunda Norte, Angola Rare diamond found

Diamond miners have discovered a giant pink gem in Angola. Thought to be the largest pink diamond unearthed in more than 300 years, it has been named "Lulo Rose," after the Lulo mine where it was discovered in a riverbed. Only about one in 10,000 diamonds is pink. Angola, in southwestern Africa, is one of the 10 biggest producers of diamonds in the world.



The giant pink diamond

GETTY IMAGES (5); FOTA WILDLIFE PARK; NORA VANESKY/AP; NEOM; SHUTTERSTOCK (2)





Lights will be turned off.



## Germany Cities make energy cuts

Several German cities have introduced measures designed to save energy. These include turning off lights on monuments, using only cold water in the bathrooms of public buildings, and turning off public fountains. Germany is facing an energy shortage because Russia is limiting its gas supply to the country.



The ship leaves Odessa.



## Odessa, Ukraine First grain ship departs from Ukraine

On August 1, a ship loaded with corn left the port of Odessa in Ukraine after being stranded there for almost six months. Russia had been stopping ships from leaving Ukraine since it invaded the country in February. Russia's block on Ukraine's ports led to food shortages and rising food costs around the world. A deal struck between the two countries means ships carrying grain can now leave Ukraine to go to other ports.



An impression of the city



## Saudi Arabia Plans for megacity are revealed

Plans for a new city within two horizontal skyscrapers known as The Line have been revealed. The Line is the idea of Saudi Arabia's crown prince, Mohammed bin Salman. The planned city would be car-free and use renewable energy. The buildings, which are covered in mirrors, will extend in a straight line from the Red Sea across the desert for more than 100 miles, and more than 9 million people are expected to live there.



Damage from the earthquake



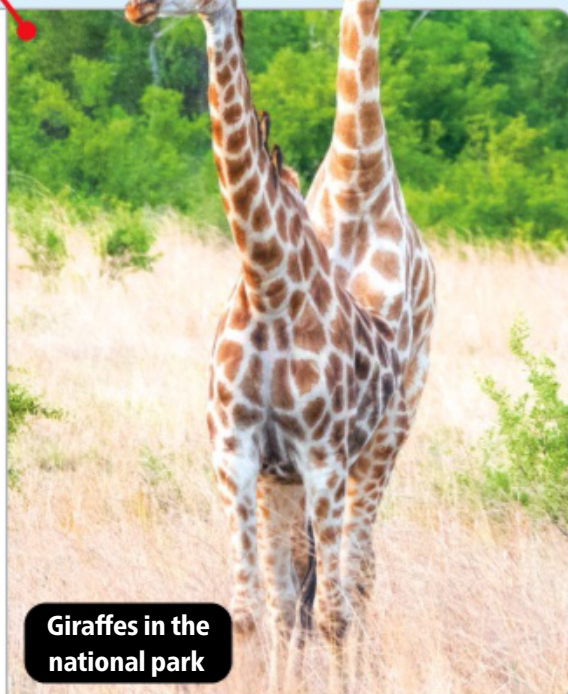
## Philippines Residents get relief after earthquake

Rescue workers dropped relief supplies by plane in the Abra province in the northern Philippines, where an earthquake struck last week. The 7.1 magnitude earthquake hit northern Luzon, one of about 7,000 islands in the Philippines. Six people were killed, and more than 270 were injured. More than 3,000 food packets have been distributed so far.



## Zimbabwe Giraffes tracked

A group of conservationists (people who work to protect animals and nature) in Zimbabwe's Hwange National Park have fitted 14 giraffes with GPS trackers in the form of lightweight ear tags. The trackers, powered by the sun's rays, will allow the conservationists to better understand the movements of giraffes in the wild and how they use their habitat. The giraffes will be monitored online.



Giraffes in the national park





## The big debate

# Is planting trees hurting nature?

Many people want to regrow forests. But some say they're going about it all wrong.

### What you need to know

- Trees absorb carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>), a gas that traps heat in the atmosphere. This helps slow climate change.
- Each year, at least 10 million hectares of tree cover, an area about as large as Kentucky, are lost to deforestation.
- Billions of new trees are being planted in an attempt to make up for the destruction.
- Native trees are those that have been growing in a place for a long time. They are an important part of the location's ecosystem.



An estimated 15 billion trees are lost every year to deforestation (when people cut down trees for building or agriculture) or wildfires. That loss has a major effect on the planet. To help, many companies are pledging to plant a tree for each product sold, and groups like the Trillion Tree project are planting as many trees as possible. But some experts say it's not about the numbers. They say it's more important to plant the right trees in the right ecosystem (a group of living things that rely upon one another). Trees planted where they don't belong might not provide the right home or food to wildlife and could even cause harm. What do you think? Is planting trees hurting nature?

### Yes—it's wrong for the environment

It's not about how many trees we plant, it's about which trees we plant. Native trees provide animal habitat, support other plants, and enrich the soil. But many native trees are being replaced with non-native trees that don't have the same positive effect on the ecosystem. In fact, companies are planting the same few tree species everywhere because they're better for lumber or other uses, which puts other kinds of trees at risk of dying out. When people help plant trees, they think they've done their part to help the environment. They should also focus on reducing fossil fuels, creating less trash, and protecting other natural resources.

### No—all trees provide benefits

Planting any trees is better than planting no trees. All trees remove CO<sub>2</sub> from the atmosphere and release oxygen. They also provide shade, which reduces temperatures—especially in cities. When it's not as hot out, people don't need to use as much energy to cool their homes, which also helps slow climate change. When companies plant trees for every purchase, it increases consumer awareness of deforestation and other climate issues. Those people will make better choices for the planet, like reducing their use of fossil fuels. Trees aren't the only way to slow climate change, but they are a major part of the solution.

### YES Three reasons why planting trees is hurting nature

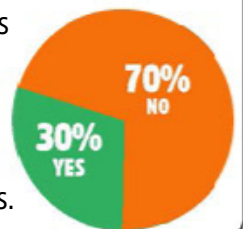
- 1 The types of trees being planted don't always fit into local ecosystems and can even harm them.
- 2 If only the same few species of trees are planted, other kinds of trees could die out.
- 3 Planting trees makes people think they are saving the environment, which means they might not take other steps to help.

### NO Three reasons why planting trees is not hurting nature

- 1 It's better to plant non-native trees than not to plant any trees at all. All trees clean the air and generate oxygen.
- 2 Trees create shade, which lowers temperatures and reduces energy use.
- 3 Tree planting programs make people aware of their impact on the environment and inspire them to take other steps too.

### LAST WEEK'S POLL

Last week, we asked whether abstract art is better than realistic art. Most of you prefer art that looks like real life: 70% of you said no, and 30% said yes.

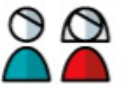


### What do you think?

Now that you've read a bit more about this issue, have a parent or guardian visit [theweekjunior.com/polls](http://theweekjunior.com/polls) with you so you can vote in our debate. Vote **YES** if you think planting trees is hurting nature or **NO** if you don't. We'll publish the results next week.

The goal of the big debate is to present two sides of an issue fairly in order to stimulate discussion and allow our readers to make up their minds. The views on this page do not reflect those of *The Week Junior*, and the page is not funded by third parties.





## Breaking baseball barriers

Baseball manager Rachel Balkovec is blazing a trail for women in baseball.

Last April, when Rachel Balkovec took over as manager of the Tampa Tarpons, a New York Yankees affiliate minor league team, she became the first woman in baseball history to serve as a full-time manager of a minor league team. While she's said the job has its challenges, it's also been an opportunity to learn and grow.

Balkovec, age 35, began her sports career as a player. She played college softball at Creighton University and the University of New Mexico. In 2014, with the St. Louis Cardinals, she became the first woman to be a full-time strength and conditioning coach for a minor league team. In 2019, she joined the Yankees organization and became the first woman to work as a full-time hitting coach for a minor league team.



Balkovec signs an autograph.

It has been a long road for Balkovec. At one point, she wrote "Ray" on her résumé instead of "Rachel," fearing teams wouldn't consider her because she is a woman. "I wanted to give up many times," Balkovec has said. "If you take those big risks, you're gonna get a big payoff."

Her first game as the Tarpons manager was met with excitement. Fans asked for her autograph, a "Let's go, Rachel!" chant broke out in the stands, and, during the pre-game lineup, she received a standing ovation from the crowd, which included nearly 1,200 female student athletes, who were given free tickets.

While Balkovec has said her long-term career goal is to become a general manager, she also recently said, "The goal is just to get better."



Rachel Balkovec

**MAKING HISTORY**

Effa Manley, co-owner of the Newark Eagles, was the first woman elected into the National Baseball Hall of Fame.

## A sculpting legend

Artist Claes Oldenburg, famous for his gigantic sculptures of everyday objects such as brooms and clothespins, died on July 18 at the age of 93. Oldenburg was born in Sweden and moved to the US in 1936, at age 7. He rose to fame in the New York City art scene during the 1950s and 1960s. He famously collaborated with his wife, Coosje, on more than 40 projects, including the iconic cherry balancing on a spoon at the Minneapolis Sculpture Garden. Oldenburg once told NPR, "I've always been very interested in deriving my art from my surroundings, from my daily experiences."



Claes Oldenburg and one of his sculptures



Bellen Woodard

## Colors for everyone

Bellen Woodard, age 11, is working to change how people talk about skin color. Her new book, *More Than Peach*, shares the story of how, when she was 8, it bothered her when a classmate asked for someone to "pass the skin-colored crayon." The peach crayon they asked for represented white skin tones. Woodard founded the company More Than Peach to provide students with crayons of all skin colors. She told *The Washington Post*, "Instead of asking kids what they want to be when they grow up, ask them what they want to change."

## OVERHEARD



**"As I get older, I just want perfect weather and a perfect meal."**

Steve Martin, the 76-year-old actor and comedian, on what brings him joy. In his career of more than 50 years, he has starred in films such as *Cheaper by the Dozen* (2003) and *The Pink Panther* (2006).





# Animals and the environment



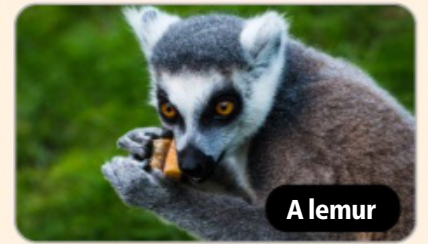
## DID YOU KNOW?

Sometimes male pandas do a handstand against a tree to relax.

The panda diet is nearly all bamboo.

## Why thumbs are rare

Primates evolved thumbs to help them grasp branches. Monkeys, apes, lemurs, koalas, and humans find them useful for holding many other objects, too. So why don't most animals have thumbs? Scientists think it's because they would get in the way when walking and could be easily injured during daily life.



A lemur

# How pandas survive on bamboo

For such a big bear, the giant panda's favorite food—bamboo—is surprising. It's a tough, stick-like plant with relatively few nutrients, so the panda has to eat it all day long just to sustain itself. That amounts to about 30 pounds a day for a 300-pound panda. How do they do it?

The answer is in their paws. Each one has a sixth digit, which scientists call a "pseudothumb." It is actually an extension of the panda's wrist bone. "It's not nearly as good of a thumb as ours, so they can't make tools or complex movements," said Xiaoming Wang, a paleontologist (scientist who studies fossils) at the

Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County in California. But the pseudothumb is shaped like a hook, and it helps the bear tightly grasp stalks of bamboo as it chews them.



An illustration of a panda's paw

For many years, researchers have wondered how the pseudothumb evolved. Very few fossils of panda paws have been found, so the earliest evidence scientists could find was from about 150,000 years ago. But in 2015, Wang and his team discovered a spoon-shaped piece of bone belonging to Ailurarctos, an ancestor of modern pandas that lived in the Miocene Epoch, about 6 million to 7 million

years ago. While some primitive bears also had big wrist bones, Ailurarctos seemed to be one of the first animals to actually use its pseudothumb.

The researchers believe that in a crowded jungle, where Ailurarctos had to compete with ancient elephants, apes, and deer for food, being able to eat bamboo helped the bear stay alive. Bamboo was available in large quantities and it grew quickly, so the bears could snack on the plant as much as they wanted.

The team thinks that the beneficial bone never evolved into a real thumb because it would be too difficult for a panda to walk on all four paws without crushing a larger digit. "We think the pseudothumb is an evolutionary balancing act," Wang said. "You need it for grasping, but you also keep stepping on it."



## PLACE OF THE WEEK

Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore, Michigan

Native Americans once believed that a dune in Sleeping Bear Dunes, on the shores of Lake Michigan, resembled a sleeping mother bear, giving the park its name. Today, there are dunes rising more than 400 feet above the lake. Also within the park are forests, lakes, and marshes. Michigan's only species of bear, black bears, live here, and white-tailed deer and red foxes are commonly seen. Numerous species of frogs, such as the northern leopard frog, and grasshoppers inhabit the park. Bald eagles nest on Lake Michigan's shoreline and fly above, hunting for fish.



A grasshopper





## SPIDEY SENSE

Wolf spiders' excellent eyesight helps them avoid predators like birds and lizards.



Male wolf spiders have moves.

## Male wolf spiders dance to their own beat

Male wolf spiders use fancy dance moves to capture and keep the attention of their female counterparts, according to a new study at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. Researchers found that female spiders are more attracted to males who use more complex moves. There are about 2,400 wolf spider species, which live throughout the US and around the world.

Before mating, male wolf spiders will perform a sophisticated dance, tapping their legs and moving their abdomen, that lasts anywhere from five to 45 minutes. The

researchers analyzed 44 spider dances. Nine of the spiders had elaborate two-step moves. These males were preferred by females.

Scientists want to know why male wolf spiders use such complex moves, which can be exhausting and attract predators. They would also like to understand why female spiders were more drawn to two-stepping males, which were not necessarily the biggest or strongest spiders. Scientist Eileen Hebets said they may be "looking for a male that is really athletic and can coordinate all of these different signals into one display."

## Animal of the week

## Bottlenose dolphin



High numbers of bottlenose dolphins have been visiting New York Harbor in recent years and have been spotted close to New York City. Experts say the increase in visits could be because the water has gotten cleaner and less polluted.

- **LIFE SPAN:** 45 to 50 years in the wild
- **SIZE:** 10 to 14 feet long and about 1,100 pounds
- **HABITAT:** Warm waters all over the world
- **DIET:** Includes fish, squid, crabs, and shrimp
- **FUN FACT:** The bottlenose dolphin can swim at speeds of more than 18 miles an hour.

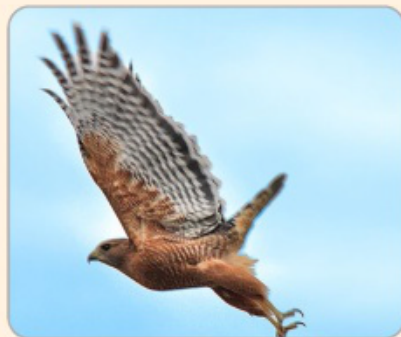


## Good week / Bad week



### Visayan warty pigs

The Newquay Zoo in Cornwall, England, is celebrating the arrival of two piglets born to Visayan warty pig parents. These rare pigs are native to forests in the Philippines, but there may be as few as 200 of them left in the wild.



### California birds

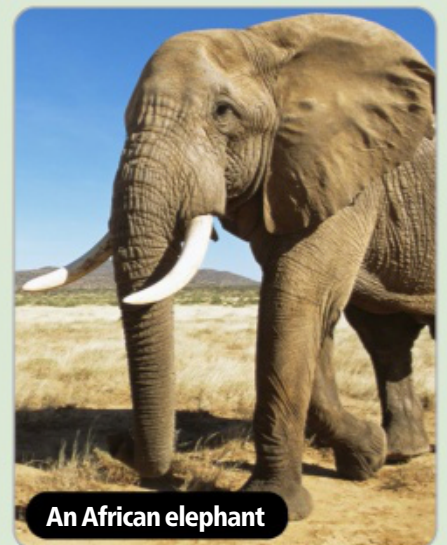
At least 44 California wildfires from 2014 through 2018 were caused by birds getting electrocuted on power lines and their feathers catching fire, according to a recent study. It recommends modifying power poles to reduce the risk to birds.



## "Why do elephants have tusks?" Caroline, 8, and John, 5, Massachusetts

Josh Mancebo  
Keeper, Zoo Atlanta

Elephant tusks are special teeth, and instead of using them for eating, elephants use them as tools. An elephant can tusk the ground to dig holes, pick things up like a forklift, and rub them against trees to strip the bark for a snack. They will also use them as weapons if they feel threatened.



An African elephant

Do you have a question for a zookeeper? Send it to [hello@theweekjunior.com](mailto:hello@theweekjunior.com). Find out more about Zoo Atlanta at [zooatlanta.org](http://zooatlanta.org).





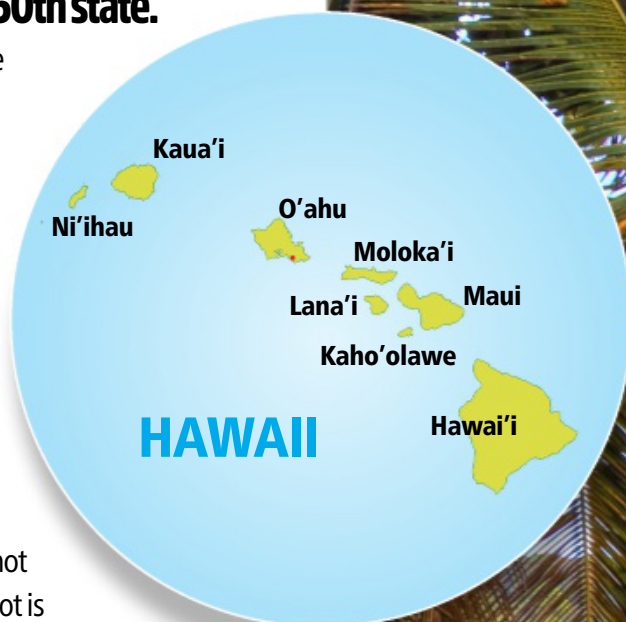
# A tropical paradise

## Discover the group of islands that became America's 50th state.

Hawaii, the only US state surrounded by water, is located in the Pacific Ocean, about 2,500 miles from California. It is the largest chain of islands in the world.

## How the islands were formed

About 40 to 70 million years ago, the islands of Hawaii were formed by a hot spot of volcanoes. A hot spot is where a volcano erupts from under the water, and the magma (hot underground lava) rises to the surface. Hawaii's eight main islands are the best known, but there are 137 islands altogether.



A drawing of King Kamehameha

## Early settlers

The islands were settled in 400 CE by Polynesians from the Marquesas Islands to the south, who rowed more than 2,000 miles by canoe. Tribes established fishing and farming communities and brought traditions like hula dancing, surfing, and exchanging flower garlands, called leis. In 1778, the first European, Captain James Cook, set foot on the islands. Different tribes fought for power, but by 1810, one tribal leader, King Kamehameha (pronounced Ka-may-ha-may-ha) had conquered and united them all under one rule. He is considered Hawaii's first king and founder. Within a few years, Christian missionaries started arriving in Hawaii, followed by Western traders and whalers. As more Europeans settled on the islands, many parts of Hawaiian culture, like hula and traditional healing, were outlawed.



## HISTORIC LANGUAGE

Hawaiian is one of the oldest living languages in the world. There are 13 letters in its alphabet.

Coconut palm trees grow throughout Hawaii.

## Volcanoes National Park

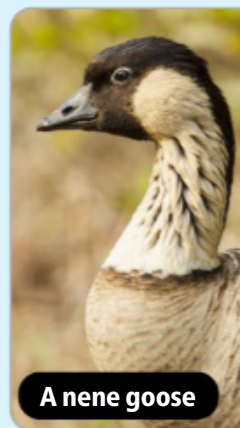
This park on Hawaii Island, known as the Big Island, was founded in 1916. The more than 1.5 million people who visit each year are rewarded with natural wonders.



The Kilauea volcano

## Active volcanoes

There are two active volcanoes in the park: Kilauea and Mauna Loa. Visitors can safely watch both from about 400 feet above Kilauea's hollow center, called a caldera. Kilauea has erupted regularly since 1983.



A nene goose





# rich in history



## DID YOU KNOW?

The Hawaii state flag features eight stripes representing the eight main islands.

## ALOHA SPIRIT

Hawaii is known as the Aloha State. "Aloha" is Hawaiian for "hello," "goodbye," and "love and affection."



The state flag

## Becoming a state

Worried about Europe's increasing presence in the islands, the third king of Hawaii, King Kamehameha III, asked the US to protect Hawaii. The government established a naval base at Pearl Harbor in 1887. (On December 7, 1941, that base would be attacked by Japan, drawing the US into World War Two.) The monarchy ended in 1893, when a group of American sugar planters forced the last Hawaiian ruler, Queen Lili'uokalani, to give up her throne. For years, many Hawaiians advocated for statehood, though some wished to remain independent. On August 21, 1959, Hawaii became the 50th state.



Pineapple plants

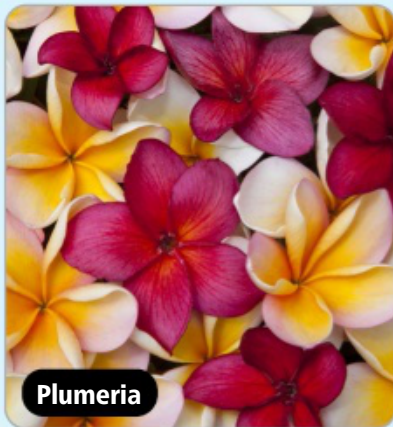
## Hawaii today

Hawaii, now home to more than 1.4 million people, is the most racially and ethnically diverse state in the US. Nearly 40% of residents identify as Asian, and native Hawaiians and other Pacific Islanders make up about 10% of the population. Hawaii is the only state to have two official languages (English and Hawaiian). About 40% of Hawaii's land is still farmland, with crops including sugarcane, coffee, figs, pineapple, and papaya. The main source of income in the state is money spent by tourists seeking to enjoy Hawaii's palm trees and white, green, red, pink, and black sand beaches. In 2022, tourism to Hawaii has rebounded nearly to pre-pandemic levels.



## Wildlife

Around the volcanoes, the park is home to plentiful wildlife. This includes the nene goose (the official state bird), happy face spider, Hawaiian hoary bat, and hawksbill, an endangered sea turtle that lives in the islands' waters.



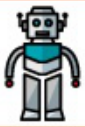
Plumeria

## Plants

The hapu'u (Hawaiian tree fern) and wiliwili (Hawaiian coral tree) are found only in Hawaii. They grow in the park, along with thousands of flowering plants, including yellow hibiscus, which is the state flower, and plumeria, which are used to make leis.







**FUN FACT**  
Giraffes are the tallest land animals. Males can be up to 18 feet tall and females up to 14 feet tall.

This illustration shows how *Discokeryx xiezhi* could have battled with its neck.



## Ancient giraffes evolved to fight

A newly identified ancient species could help shed light on a commonly asked question about giraffes: Why do they have such long necks? A team of paleontologists (scientists who study the past through fossils) recently studied the fossils of a creature found in northern China. The animal, which scientists named *Discokeryx xiezhi*, lived about 17 million years ago and was a relative of modern giraffes. Its unusual features offer new clues to the distinct shape of today's giraffes.

The giraffe's long neck is often used as an example of a scientific idea called evolution by natural selection. This theory explains how species adapt and change over many generations. Individuals with features that make them better suited to their environment than others are more likely to survive. They're also more likely to pass on those features to their babies.

In the past, scientists thought that giraffe ancestors with longer necks benefited by reaching food that was out of reach for other animals,

so all giraffes evolved to have this feature. An alternative theory is that giraffe necks evolved for battle. Today, male giraffes compete for females by swinging their necks and heads at each other. This has led some scientists to wonder whether their necks grew longer to deliver more powerful blows.

The sheep-sized *Discokeryx xiezhi* lacked the modern giraffe's long neck, but it had other unusual features. Its skull was thick and flat on top, functioning like a helmet, and its neck bones were extremely thick. The team said these features demonstrate that *Discokeryx* was built for headbutting rivals. In fact, the scientists believe that the creature had the strongest skull and neck of any mammal that has ever lived.

This may be because the ancient species lived in sparse grasslands where food was scarce, so they had to be super competitive to survive. Once long necks had developed, being able to nibble treetop leaves was a bonus that offered a new source of food. The benefits of reaching higher may also explain the modern giraffe's long legs.



A rendering of *Discokeryx xiezhi*'s skull

### Giant bear-dog is discovered

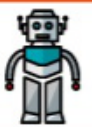


A drawing of *Tartarocyon*

Scientists have discovered a fearsome new species of predator that looked like a cross between a bear and a large dog but was related to neither of those species. Researchers identified it from the fossil of its enormous lower jaw, which was found in the Pyrenees mountains between France and Spain. They named it *Tartarocyon* after Tartaro, a legendary one-eyed giant that was said to live in the area.

Weighing up to about 441 pounds, the fierce meat-eater had a heavy body and flat feet, like a bear, but its legs and snout were long, like a dog. *Tartarocyon* belonged to a group of animals called amphiycyonids and lived between 36 million and 7.5 million years ago.





## Optimism found to help people live longer

A positive outlook may help people live longer. A new study from Harvard University in Massachusetts found that women who are more optimistic are more likely to have longer life spans and to live past age 90.

This was true for women across different racial and ethnic groups.

The team collected data from 159,255 women ages 50 to 79. They tracked the subjects for up to 26 years and found that women among the 25% most optimistic had longer life spans. These women were 10% likelier to live past 90 than those who were least optimistic.

The findings supported an earlier study by the same researchers. That study, however, had focused on a mostly

white population, and the team wanted to expand their work. Another group of researchers found in a 2019 study that both men and women were likely to live longer if they were more optimistic.

It's not clear exactly how optimism leads to longer lives, but the team said optimists are better at handling stress, and stress is known to cause negative health effects. They also noted

that optimists have better social support, such as friends and family, and are more likely to eat well and exercise regularly.

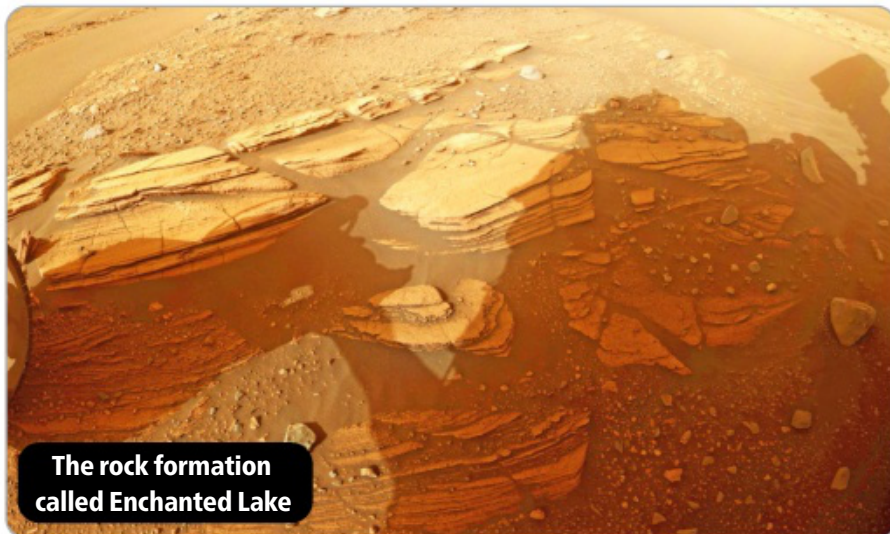
The scientists said there are ways to become more optimistic, such as by writing down the good things that happen every day or setting goals and picturing yourself achieving them.

**DID YOU KNOW?**

The word "optimism" comes from the Latin word *optimum*, which means "the best."



Strong relationships help people feel more optimistic.



The rock formation called Enchanted Lake

## Mars photo could reveal signs of life

NASA, the US space agency, released an image captured by the Perseverance rover (wheeled robot) that could prove there was once life on Mars.

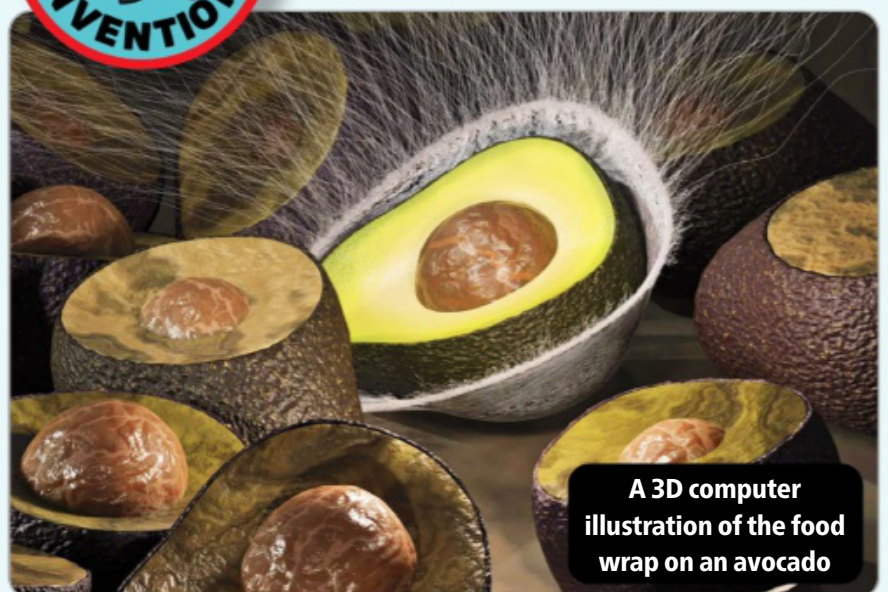
Perseverance took a photo of a rock formation in Mars' Jezero Crater, which it has been exploring since 2021. Scientists call the formation Enchanted Lake. The photo shows layered rocks in the crater's ancient river delta, where a lake and a river met billions of years ago.

Most Martian rocks formed under extreme pressure and heat, which makes them unlikely to contain fossils. These rocks could be different. As mud and sand in the water gradually solidified into layers, microscopic life forms could have been captured inside.

Perseverance is gathering samples. Once they are brought back to Earth, NASA will study them with powerful equipment to see if they contain evidence of life.



## Safe food wrap that washes off



A 3D computer illustration of the food wrap on an avocado

Scientists at Harvard University have created a food wrap that prevents waste and rinses off in water. They used natural materials, including some that stop bacteria from growing, such as thyme oil.

The team was inspired by medical technology they created

to keep wounds clean and protected. The system works like a cotton candy machine, spinning and spraying the liquid material in thin fibers directly onto the food. They tested the flavorless wrap on avocados, which stayed 40% fresher than unwrapped avocados for seven days.





# Photos of the week



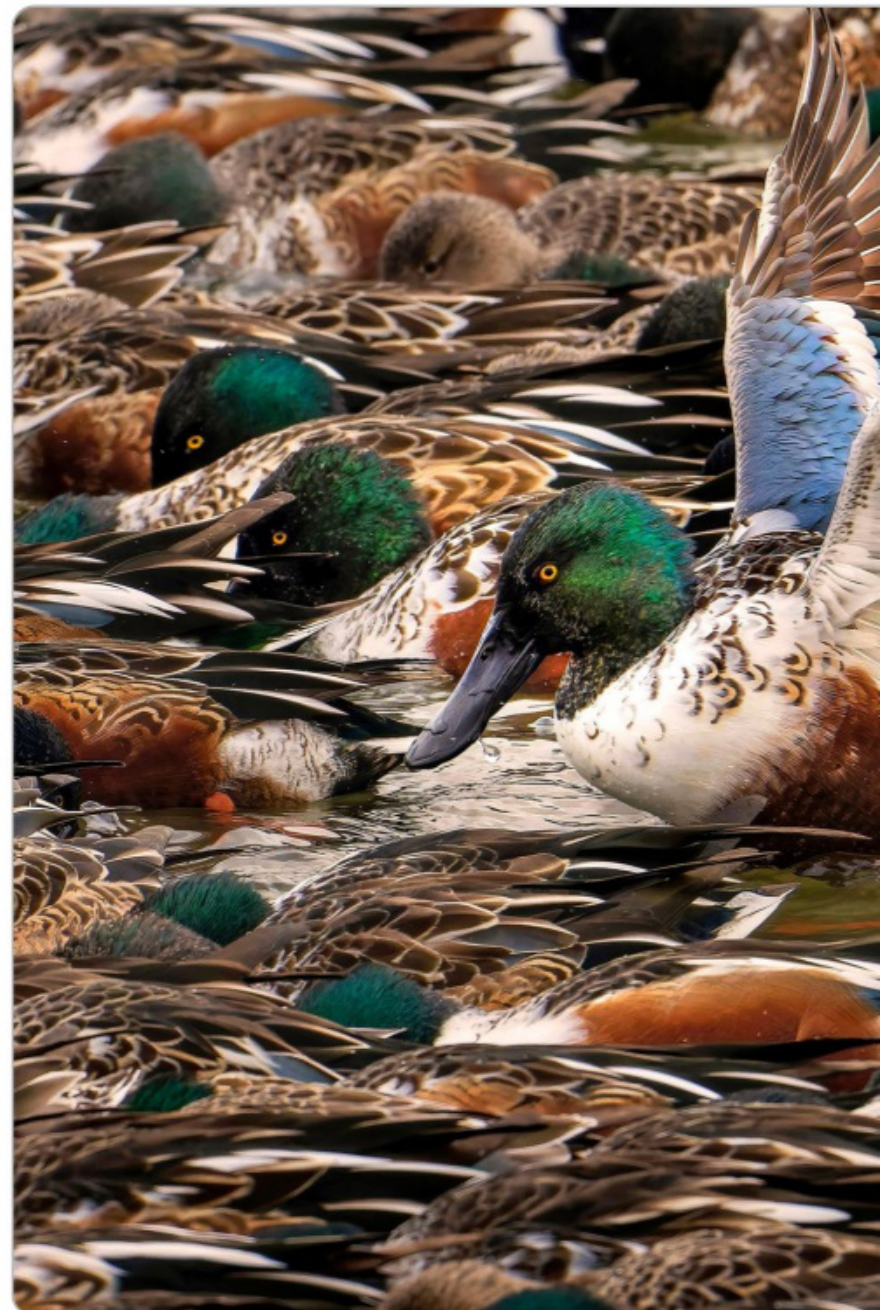
## Call of the wild

A greater prairie-chicken cries out in this image by Amiel Hopkins of the US.



## Good enough to eat

A Nashville warbler snacks on a snail in this photo by Shirley Donald of Canada.



JACK ZHI; LIRON GERTSMAN; SHIRLEY DONALD; STEVE JESSMORE; AMIEL HOPKINS; ANKUR KHURANA





## Help from a friend

Ankur Khurana of Canada snapped two ravens grooming each other in the snow.



## Up in the air

White-tailed kites take flight in this photo by Jack Zhi of the US.



## Stunning view

Liron Gertsman of Canada caught this white-tailed ptarmigan enjoying a peaceful scene.



## Feathered flock

Steve Jessmore of the US shot these Northern shovelers gathering on a cold day.







# Sports



## DID YOU KNOW?

The Tour de France is considered the most watched sporting event in the world.

Annemiek van Vleuten

## What the jerseys mean



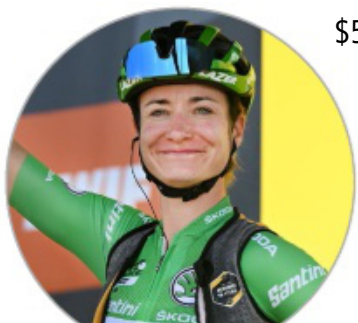
At the end of each Tour de France stage, top racers get special jerseys to wear the next day. Yellow signifies the fastest overall time, and green is for the rider with the most points. White is for the fastest rider under age 26, and the top hill climber wears polka dots.

# Historic Tour de France for women

From July 24 to July 31, the Tour de France Femmes, a 639-mile cycling race, took place in France. It was a spin-off of the Tour de France, the most famous and important men's cycling race. This was the first time since 1989 that female athletes participated in their own Tour. Dutch cyclist Annemiek van Vleuten, the number one cyclist in the world, was the winner.

The first Tour de France was held in 1903. Over the years, women competed in the official event only five times. The organization of the Tour de France Femmes was considered a major advancement in women's sports. The race included the largest prize pool in women's

cycling, with a total fund of about \$250,000 and the winner receiving about \$50,000. By contrast, the men's race awards total prizes of about \$2.2 million, with more than \$500,000 going to the winner.



Marianne Vos

The Tour de France Femmes featured 24 teams with six riders each. The course began on the Champs Élysée, a famous avenue in Paris. It ended at La Super Planche des Belles Filles, the top of a mountain in Eastern France. The race was broken up into eight stages. Four were flat, two were hilly, and two took place in the mountains. Some parts included gravel, an added challenge. There was a scary moment during the fifth stage, when

at least 30 riders were involved in a crash. None were seriously injured.

Van Vleuten was the favorite entering the race, but she didn't have an easy time. Early on, she was sick with a stomach bug. Marianne Vos, another Dutch rider, won two stages and led for the majority of the Tour. Van Vleuten was in eighth place entering the seventh stage, but by the end of it she was the overall leader.

She began the 76-mile final stage with a 3:14 lead over Demi Vollering, who is also Dutch. That day, van Vleuten had to change bikes several times, but she remained in the lead and finished the stage 30 seconds ahead of Vollering. In the end, Vollering took second place overall, while Polish rider Katarzyna Niewiadoma finished in third overall.

## THIS WEEK'S WINNERS...

### INTERNATIONAL SOCCER

On July 31, England beat Germany, 2-1, in extra time to win the Women's European Championship. They played in front of 87,000 people, the largest crowd to ever attend a men's or women's Euro final. Ella Toone and Chloe Kelly scored the two goals for England's team, the Lionesses. This is the nation's first major women's soccer title and its first title in a major men's or women's tournament since 1966.



James Outman

### MAJOR LEAGUE BASEBALL

In his Major League debut on July 31, Los Angeles Dodgers outfielder James Outman hit a two-run home run in his first at bat. He had two more hits in the game, which the Dodgers won, 7-3.

### FORMULA 1 RACING

Red Bull driver Max Verstappen won the Hungarian Grand Prix on July 31. It was his second straight victory after a win at the French Grand Prix the previous week. He is in first place in the F1 driver standings.





## SWIMMING HISTORY

The first known swimming races were held in Japan in 36 BCE.



Matt Fallon

## Swimmers race in US Championships

From July 26 to July 30, the Phillips 66 National Swimming Championships were held in Irvine, California. The competition, which is one of the most prestigious US swim meets, had not been held since 2019. Many of the best swimmers in the country participated.

On the first day of racing, Olympian Katie Ledecky had a huge victory in her best event, the 800-meter freestyle. She finished in 8:12, nearly 20 seconds ahead of Mariah Denigan, who came in second. Ledecky now owns the 29 fastest times in the history of the 800-meter freestyle.

On the second day, five swimmers earned their first National Championship titles. Luke Hobson won the men's 200-meter freestyle, beating Kieran Smith by .18 seconds. The women's 200-meter breaststroke was also

close, with Mackenzie Looze edging out Anna Keating by .47 seconds for the win. Matt Fallon wowed in the men's 200-meter breaststroke. He was in seventh place halfway through, but a late burst helped him finish in first. It was also a memorable day for Isabelle Stadden, who upset 2020 Olympian Rhyen White by .22 seconds in the women's 200-meter backstroke. Jack Aikins won a thriller in the men's 200-meter backstroke, beating Ian Grum by .07 seconds.

Another highlight came on the meet's final day, when Shaine Casas nearly made history in the men's 200-meter individual medley (IM). His time, 1:55.24, was 1.24 seconds off a world record set in 2011. Casas now holds the third fastest time by an American in the 200-meter IM, behind stars Ryan Lochte and Michael Phelps.

## SPOTLIGHT ON...



## Natalie Wojcik

AGE: 22 SPORT: GYMNASTICS  
TEAM: UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

**Early inspiration** When I was 3, I was watching a gymnastics meet on TV with my parents and I thought it was the coolest thing. I started taking classes the next day.

**Role models** I loved watching Nastia Liukin and Shawn Johnson at the 2008 Olympics. Samantha Peszek was also there. She runs a balance beam camp that I've worked at. It's cool to go from watching her to working alongside her to inspire the next generation of gymnasts.

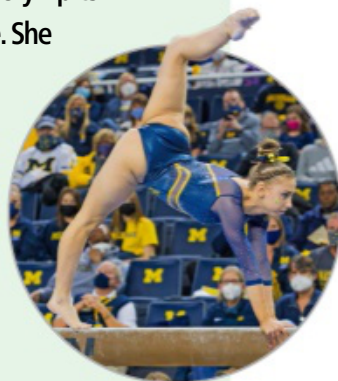
## Major moments

In 2019, I won the National Championship on beam. It was the greatest feeling in the world. After that, I had such a drive to get my team up on that podium and know that feeling too. In 2021, we won the National Championship for the first time in Michigan history. It was incredible.

**Keeping calm** During training, we practice saying cue words to ourselves to help stay on track and focus. Then we say the same things during competitions. One of the few things you can control in that setting is the way you speak to yourself. I'm constantly reminding myself to be confident.

**Future fuel** This year, after we were eliminated from the National Championships, we stayed to cheer on our competitors. Some teams last year did that for us, and it demonstrated great sportsmanship. I wanted to pay that forward. I think it also lit a fire in my team for next year.

**Never stopping** I love that in gymnastics, even once you receive a perfect 10, there's always something you can do better. That keeps it exciting.



## COACH OF THE WEEK

Coach's Name: **Gaurav Harnal (Coach G)**

Team: **Arlington Developmental Program Surf (soccer)**

**"Coach G is my Super Dad and also an awesome coach! He makes practices fun but also teaches us how to stay focused. He always tells us to do our best, and if we have had a loss he will say, 'We will do better next time!' He helps my teammates practice what they need to get better at and how we can be a better team together. He surprises the team with prizes when they show they have improved in a skill. My team is always excited to learn from him!"** Meher, 10, Virginia



To nominate a Coach of the Week, send your coach's name, photo, sport, and team to [hello@theweekjunior.com](mailto:hello@theweekjunior.com). Include your name, age, state, and a few reasons why your coach is great.





# Arts and entertainment



## Film about being lucky

In the new animated comedy *Luck*, a girl who thinks good things never happen to her visits a magical land.

**L**uck, a new animated film about what determines the good and bad in life, is now streaming on Apple TV+. The writers of the comedy worked on hit films including *Raya and the Last Dragon*, *Cars*, *Kung Fu Panda 2*, and *Trolls*.

The main character in *Luck* is Sam Greenfield, a young woman who grew up in foster care (a temporary home for someone waiting to be adopted). She believes she is the



Peggy Holmes

unluckiest person in the world. After she meets a mysterious cat and finds a lucky penny, she ends up following the cat to the Land of Luck. It is run by a dragon and is home to characters including leprechauns and a unicorn.

There, she learns what really makes good and bad things happen.

While working on the film, director Peggy Holmes and writer Kiel Murray met people who had been in foster care to learn about their outlooks on life. "We were so taken by

how they keep going, even though they've had very real bad luck in their lives," Holmes told *The Week Junior*. She also studied the subject of luck. "Humans are obsessed with it," she said. "The truth is that it is random. You can't create it and you can't control it."

Sam learns lessons during her time in the Land of Luck that will help audiences see bad luck in a new way. "It isn't all bad," Holmes said. "Some of it can lead to good." In the end, she hopes *Luck* provides an inspiring message: "Do not give up on your dreams, and don't give up on yourself."

### 3 good-luck animals

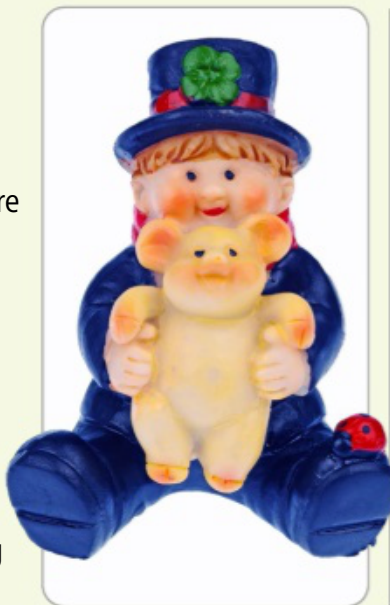
#### Swedish horse

Hand-painted wooden Dala horses have been made in Sweden for centuries. They are an unofficial symbol of the country. Many people consider them lucky.



#### German pig

Pigs are a lucky creature in many different cultures. In Germany, where they are called *Glücksschwein*, it is a New Year's tradition to give someone a pig made out of marzipan (a type of sweet) to bring them luck.



#### Japanese cat

The *Maneki-neko* ("beckoning cat" in Japanese) is said to bring luck to businesses. It comes in different colors and designs to symbolize different desires. A raised left paw is for attracting customers.







**WOW!**

The pads of a giant water lily can grow to be more than 6 feet across.



An orchid flower

## High-tech look at plant life

**T**he *Green Planet*, a new five-part nature series, offers a look at plant life like never before. It reveals incredible features of plants and some of their very surprising behaviors. The series is hosted by Sir David Attenborough, a world-famous naturalist (person who studies nature). It was filmed in 27 countries and explores several different environments, such as desert, tropical, and freshwater. Episodes are on [PBS.com](https://www.pbs.com) and the PBS app.

Plants move and change slowly, so “they seem to do nothing,” executive producer Michael Gunton said. In order to show what they are really up to, the series was filmed with special high-tech cameras and time-lapse

photography. Gunton said that by using the technology, “it’s like parting a curtain to go into a parallel universe.”

One part of plant life that excited the producers is the way trees in a forest are connected by underground fungal networks. They allow the trees to communicate with one another when they need nutrients or if there’s danger. Gunton called it “truly out of science fiction.”

The series also shows how plants entice animals into doing things for them and how plants protect themselves from being eaten. Attenborough said seeing those behaviors “should make people say, ‘Good lord, these extraordinary organisms are just like us.’”



## MOVIE NIGHT

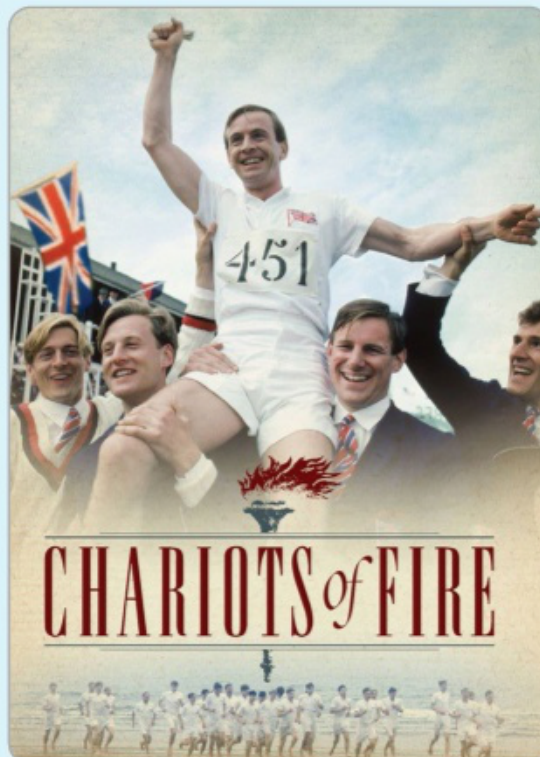
If you’re looking for a film to watch with family or friends, consider this pick of the week.

### Chariots of Fire (1981)

**PG**

Available to stream on Kanopy or to rent or buy on all major platforms

This award-winning drama tells the true story of two British runners who competed in the 1924 Olympics. Harold Abrahams is a Jewish student at Cambridge University, and Eric Liddell is a devout Scottish missionary (a person who promotes Christianity). Despite being fast runners, pursuing their athletic dreams isn’t easy. Harold experiences discrimination because of his religion, while Eric is conflicted about putting aside his missionary work to train. After Harold loses to Eric in a race, he nearly quits running but instead sets a goal to become the world’s fastest man. At the Olympics, Eric faces a difficult decision when a race is set for a Sunday, a day of religious observance. How will the Games end for the pair?



## THIS WEEK'S WATCH LIST



### Generation Gap

(ABC) Thursdays at 9 pm ET

This funny new game show hosted by TV personality Kelly Ripa features pairs of older and younger family members. They are challenged to answer questions about pop culture from each other’s generation. The more they guess correctly, the more money they win.



### Super Giant Robot Brothers! (Netflix)

Giant robot siblings Shiny and Thunder are the stars of this new animated series. With help from the brainy inventor who created them, they must defend Earth from invading space monsters. A bigger challenge may be getting along with each other.



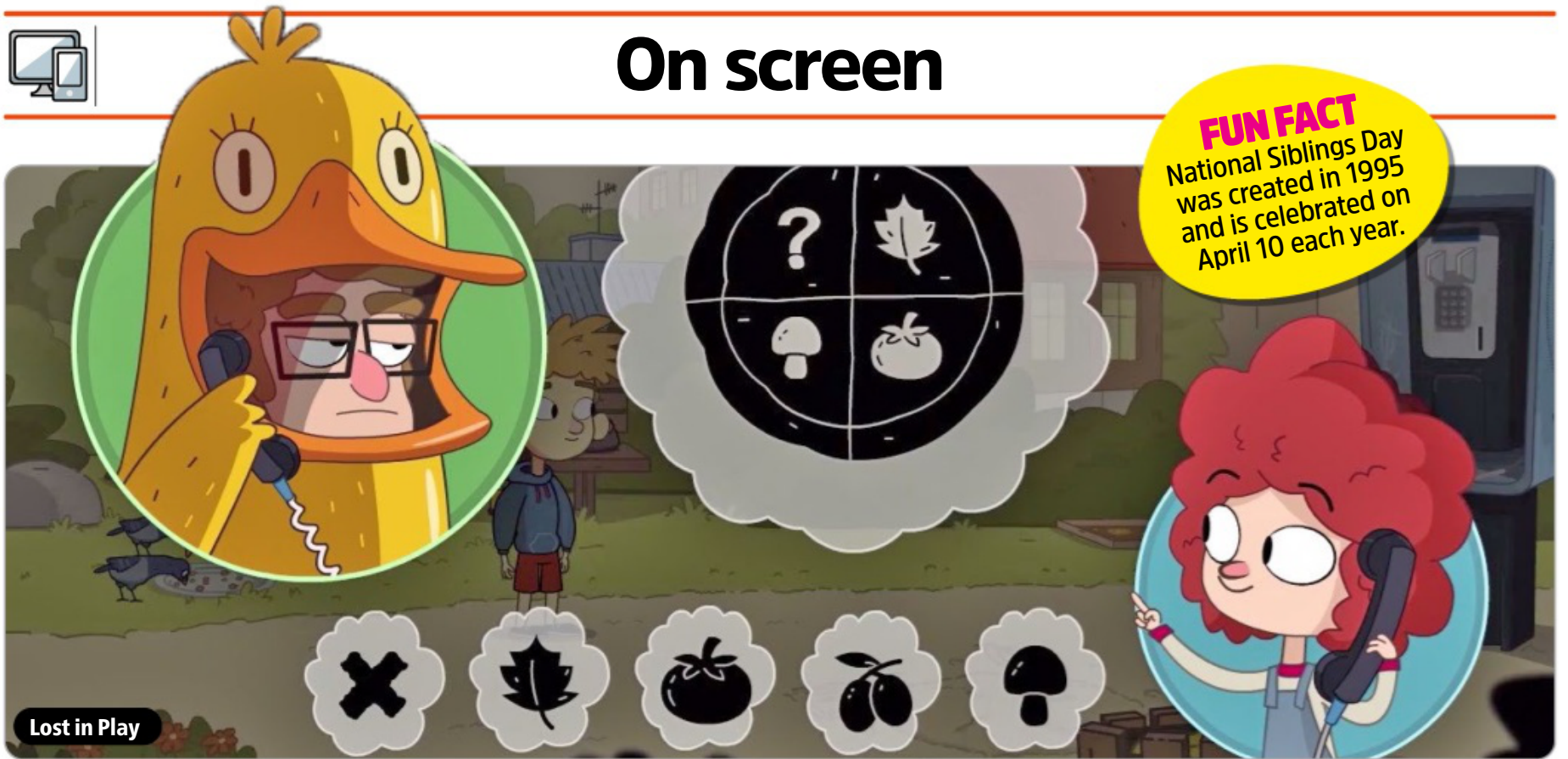
### I Am Groot (Disney+)

Fans of Marvel’s *Guardians of the Galaxy* films can see what childhood was like for lovable alien Groot in this new collection of five original shorts. The series follows the tree-like creature as he gets into trouble on a distant planet. He is voiced, as always, by actor Vin Diesel.





## On screen



# Help siblings solve puzzles

**L**ost in Play is a new adventure puzzle game. It will be released on August 10 for the Nintendo Switch and PC.

The game centers around older brother Toto and his sister, Gal. They love dreaming up fantasy worlds and imaginary animals. One day, they are attacked by an angry cloud, struck by lightning, and trapped in their own imagination. There, they come face-to-face with some of the monsters and villains they've dreamed up. To get home, they'll need to solve all kinds of puzzles and explore their own dreams, which means they're in for a wild journey.

Toto and Gal's imagination is filled with magical landscapes and incredible creatures such as big frogs in crowns, massive fish with treasure islands on their backs, and

sheep that can be flown. The look of the game was inspired by 2D cartoons. During gameplay, it can feel like you're controlling a wacky TV series.

The siblings don't always get along, and there are times when they take separate paths in the game. There are tricksters everywhere, including goblins that will challenge Toto and Gal to a game of cards. Expect moments when you'll have to summon up some bravery for the pair, such as when they start a rebellion against the goblins or have to free a mythical sword.

Lost in Play has more than 30 different mini-games and puzzles, which help unlock new areas. Since it's a point-and-click game, it's never too chaotic or difficult to handle. To succeed, tap into your smarts and imagination, just like Toto and Gal do.

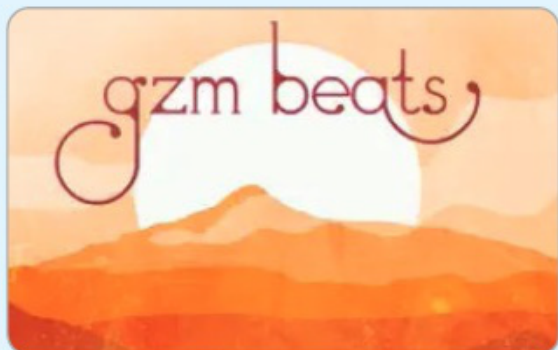


### PODCAST OF THE WEEK

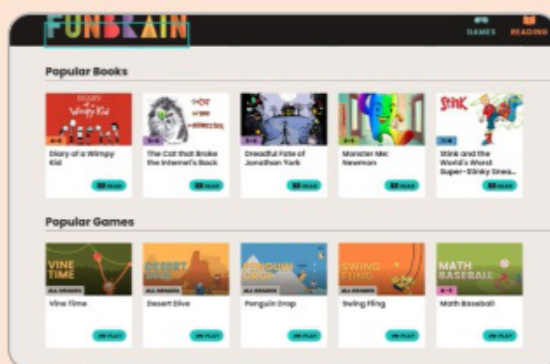
#### GZM BEATS

[tinyurl.com/TWJUS-Beats](https://tinyurl.com/TWJUS-Beats)

Gen-Z Media, producers of podcasts such as *The Weirdness* and *Becoming Mother Nature*, created this series filled with hours of soothing beats and melodies. Each episode was specifically made for studying, chores, or sleep. The tunes are original compositions by the Gen-Z Media composers.



### WEBSITE OF THE WEEK



#### FUN BRAIN

[funbrain.com](https://funbrain.com)

This free website offers dozens of fun, educational games for kids up to eighth grade. Choose from classic games such as chess or original games like *Mighty Guy*, in which you have to make a stick figure jump over obstacles. The site also features a math zone, short animated videos, and more.



### PLAYLIST OF THE WEEK

#### HIHO KIDS: KIDS TRY

[tinyurl.com/TWJUS-KidsTry](https://tinyurl.com/TWJUS-KidsTry)

HiHo Kids has a collection of videos featuring adventurous kids trying new foods or cooking techniques from around the world. Watch their funny reactions as they taste items such as astronaut food, Japanese street food, and smoothies made with bacon and cupcakes.







## BOOK OF THE WEEK

# The Pear Affair

By Judith Eagle, illustrated by Jo Rioux  
(Walker Books US)

Penelope's mean parents forget to pick her up from boarding school. When she finally gets home on her own, she learns they're planning a trip to Paris. She begs to go with them because she wants to find Pear, a nanny who took care of her when she was younger. Penelope is worried about Pear, who stopped writing to her. Penelope gets to go to Paris, where her parents ignore her. She tries to find Pear using details from old letters. But she comes up empty-handed, and her parents want to go to Italy. Xavier, a boy who works at the hotel where Pear is staying, helps her stay behind in Paris's underground tunnels. Meanwhile, she learns that a mysterious bacteria is in the bread in bakeries all over town. Could everything be connected? The book is filled with suspense and has a big twist.

## ASK THE AUTHOR

### Judith Eagle

We spoke to the author of *The Pear Affair*.

#### What inspired this book?

A newspaper story I saved reported how police in France stumbled upon a cinema below the streets of Paris. I wondered: What would it be like if children had access to this world?

#### Have you been to Paris?

I went on a family trip when I was 12. Now my daughter lives there, so I have the best excuse to visit!

#### Does Paris really have underground tunnels?

Yes! There are miles of galleries and passageways that people once used.

#### How do you see Pear?

I think Pear is the ideal big sister. She's fun and funny, old enough to take care of you, but young enough to be excited by the same things you are.

#### Which decade would you like to travel back to?

I'd say 1910. It was an exciting time of transatlantic travel and the dawn of jazz.

## 4 books that are all about movie-making

Lights! Camera! Action! These picks reveal what it takes to make a film.

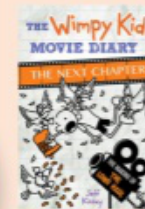


### Kids Guide to Movie Making

By Shelley Frost

(Independently published)

Written by a director of children's movies, this book contains samples of scripts that kids can cast and film. It provides tips on topics like writing movies and planning and shooting scenes. One chapter describes how to make an animated movie. *Ages 9 and up*



### The Wimpy Kid Movie Diary: The Next Chapter

By Jeff Kinney (Amulet Books)

This book takes you behind the scenes as the movie *The Diary of a Wimpy Kid: The Long Haul* is filmed. Jeff Kinney wrote the ninth volume of the Wimpy Kid series with the idea of making it into a movie. It contains details about the casting process, props, and more. *Ages 8 and up*



### Out of the Shadows: How Lotte Reiniger Made the First Animated Fairytale Movie

By Fiona Robinson (Harry N. Abrams)

This book tells the story of German filmmaker Lotte Reiniger (1899–1981), who is believed to have created the oldest surviving animated movie, called *The Adventures of Prince Achmed*. She made about 40 films altogether. *Ages 6–10*



### Marcus Makes It Big

By Kevin Hart and Geoff Rodkey, illustrated by David Cooper

(Crown Books for Young Readers)

In the new sequel to *Marcus Makes a Movie*, the young filmmaker deals with fame and tries to come up with an idea for another hit. He also explores the world of social media promotion. Kevin Hart, the co-author, is an actor and comedian. *Ages 8–12*

## WIN A BOOK!

We're giving away five copies of *The Pear Affair*.

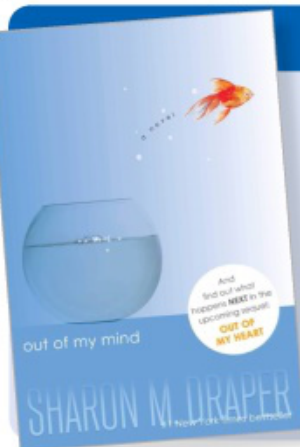
For a chance to win, send your name and address to [contests@theweekjunior.com](mailto:contests@theweekjunior.com) with *Pear Affair* in the subject line. Enter by midnight on August 26. See [theweekjunior.com/terms](http://theweekjunior.com/terms) for complete rules.

## READER RECOMMENDS

### Out of My Mind By Sharon M. Draper

"This book follows Melody Brooks—an intelligent fifth grader who can't walk or speak because of cerebral palsy—as she learns new things and faces challenges. When she finds a device that lets her communicate for the first time, she gets to show everyone who she really is—and all the great things she's capable of. I recommend this book for ages 9 to 12, but everyone can enjoy it!" Corinne, 9, New Jersey

Do you have a book to recommend? Send your review to [hello@theweekjunior.com](mailto:hello@theweekjunior.com).







# How to...

**WOW!**

The largest scavenger hunt in the world was held in Canada in 2007 and had more than 2,700 participants.



## Go on a scavenger hunt

In this friendly game, players compete to find items on a list before time is up.

If you're looking for a fun activity for a group, consider planning a scavenger hunt. This is a game in which individuals or teams try to find a list of items in a backyard, park, or other place. The person or team who finds all the items first, or has found the most items when time is up, is the winner. Here's how to plan one.

### Choose a location

First, decide where the scavenger hunt will be held. It could be in your home or backyard, around your neighborhood, or in a local park. Whatever area you choose, take a walk around and search for interesting things that people could be asked to find on the hunt. Look for a mix of objects that participants can pick up and take with them (such as a type of leaf on the ground in a park or a paper clip at your house) and items they can find and take a picture of (a street sign in your neighborhood or a bridge over a stream in the park).

### Create the list

Once you've brainstormed ideas, narrow the list down to 10 to 15 objects. Write them down on a piece of paper or type them up on a computer. Then make copies of the list so each participant has a list to follow. Be sure to distribute pens or pencils on the day of the hunt so people can check off each item they find.

### Invite friends

Set a date and time for the scavenger hunt and invite people over for the big event. An adult can help you text or email friends and family. Consider having some snacks and drinks at your home to enjoy after the hunt.

### Set the rules

Pick a starting point where your friends can gather to begin the hunt. If you have a small number of players (five or fewer), each person can do their own hunt.

If you have more than that, you might want to split people into teams. If you decide to leave your yard, ask an adult to play on each team to make sure everyone stays safe. Have each team set a timer for 30 minutes. Once time is up, they have to return to the starting point. The first person or group to find all the items on the list, or find the most items on the list when time is up, wins.

### Celebrate everyone

It's a fun idea to have a small prize for the winning person or team. This could be a special bag of treats or a gift card to a local store. You could also consider having prizes for the non-winning teams, such as an award for the team with the most spirit or the silliest team. After all, the best part about a scavenger hunt is the fun you have along the way!



## 4 steps to host a treasure hunt

A treasure hunt is similar to a scavenger hunt, but they're slightly different. Here's how to plan one.

### Use the clues

The main difference between a treasure hunt and a scavenger hunt is that a treasure hunt involves solving clues. For example, a clue might say "a place where kids can fly" and you have to figure out that it means the swing set and go there to find the next clue.



### Select a place

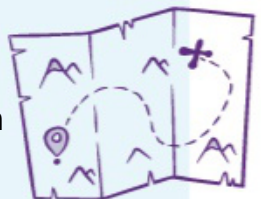
With an adult, decide when and where to host a treasure hunt. It could be in your home, your yard, or a local park. Invite the participants.



### Build the hunt

For your first treasure hunt, aim to come up with five to seven clues.

Write them down on paper and put them in their hiding spots. Give people the first clue at the starting point, then have them find the rest.



### Decide on the treasure

Part of the fun of a treasure hunt is deciding what the treasure will be at the end. It could be stickers for everyone or even a small treat, such as gum or candy. Another idea: Paint a large rock gold and call it the treasure hunt trophy.







## MAKE YOUR FRIENDS LAUGH

National Tell a Joke Day is on August 16. To mark the day, follow the tips below to help you deliver funny jokes that will get people chuckling.

- 1. Find inspiration.** If you don't have a joke in mind, many libraries stock books with jokes for kids. Ask a librarian to help you find one, or ask a parent to help you look up jokes for kids online. You can memorize jokes you find or use them as inspiration for writing your own jokes.
- 2. Know your audience.** Think about who you will be telling the joke to and what they might find humorous. For example, if your joke has to do with Minecraft, it might be funnier to a friend than to a grandparent.
- 3. Practice first.** Try telling your joke to yourself in a mirror. Aim to speak slowly and clearly, and be sure to get all the words right so the punch line makes sense. Practice adding funny expressions if you want. Once you feel good about your joke, it's time to try it out on friends or family.



**DID YOU KNOW?**

Blackberries start out green and then turn red in color before ripening to black.

**WARNING!**

Ask an adult's permission before using the oven.

## Bake up berry hand pies

### Ingredients

- Flour, for dusting
- Two refrigerated pie crust doughs
- ½ cup blackberry jam
- 1 large egg
- 1 tablespoon sparkling sugar
- ½ cup powdered sugar, sifted
- 2 tablespoons milk
- 1 tablespoon lemon juice
- Red food coloring

### Instructions

- 1.** Heat the oven to 425° F and line two baking sheets with parchment paper. On a lightly floured surface, roll out each pie crust dough to ⅛-inch thick.
- 2.** Use a large rectangular cookie cutter to cut out 24 rectangles from the dough, gathering and re-rolling the dough as needed. With a mini star cutter, or any shape you like, cut stars from the remaining dough.
- 3.** Arrange half of the dough rectangles onto the prepared baking sheets. Spread each with 2 teaspoons of jam, leaving a ½-inch border. Brush

- the edges of the dough rectangles with whisked egg and top with a remaining portion of dough. Crimp the edges of each pie with a fork.
- 4.** Use the whisked egg mixture to attach the stars to the pies. Then brush the stars with more whisked egg and sprinkle the pies with sparkling sugar.
  - 5.** Poke holes in the top of each pie with a toothpick. Bake until golden brown, about 10 minutes. Let cool.
  - 6.** For the icing, stir together the powdered sugar, milk, lemon juice, and a few drops of red food coloring. Drizzle on the pies. Makes 12 pies.

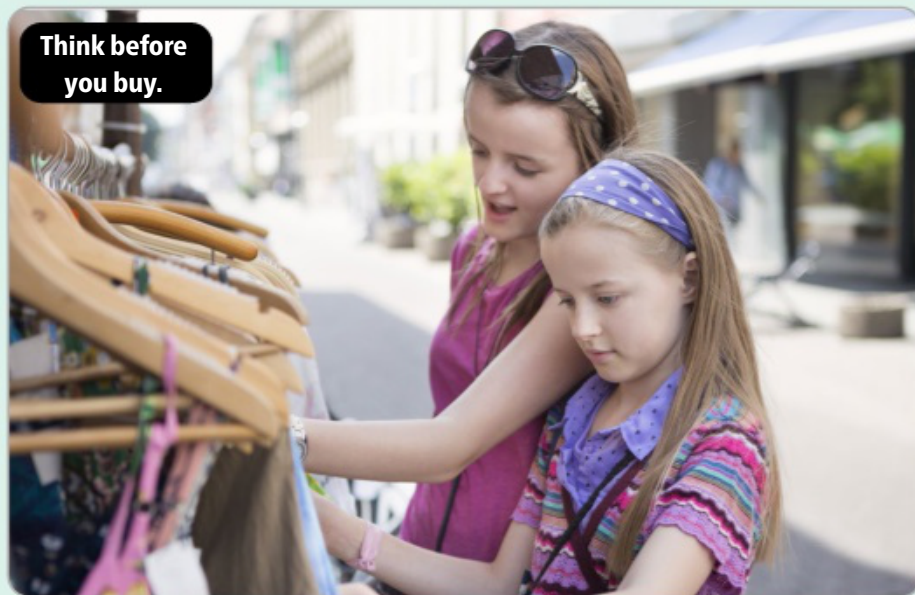


**ECO TIP**  
OF THE WEEK

**BE MINDFUL ABOUT EXTRA PURCHASES**

One way to reduce your impact on the environment is to be careful about purchases you make. While it's smart to buy items made of eco-friendly or recyclable materials, it's even better to avoid purchasing items you don't need. This is because all goods use resources, such as water and gas, when they're produced. If there is an item you and your family are considering purchasing, first ask this: Is it replacing an item that no longer works? Is it something you have been hoping to buy for a while? You may end up deciding you should buy the item, and that's OK. But by thinking it through, you may also decide to skip other purchases in the future.

Think before you buy.







# Puzzles



# Word search

Can you find all these types of birds in the grid? They are hidden horizontally, vertically, or diagonally and can be forward or backward. When you're done, read the remaining letters to get a bonus message.

AUK  
BLUE JAY  
CANARY  
CARDINAL  
CONDOR  
CROW  
CUCKOO  
DOVE  
DUCK  
EAGLE  
FLAMINGO  
GOOSE  
GULL  
HAWK  
LARK  
NIGHTINGALE  
OSTRICH  
PARROT  
PEACOCK  
PELICAN

PENGUIN  
QUAIL  
RAVEN  
ROBIN  
SWAN  
TOUCAN  
TURKEY  
WREN

H U  
 D U C K M  
 M I U A N K Y  
 G A C C R O W E B S  
 I K R D D N A K Y S W R  
 C O S T R I C H R C A N A R Y  
 O G A D B N L L U G J V N  
 L N E O Y A B R T E I  
 P C S I R V K L O N U W  
 E A C O C K M A E U D G L  
 L T O R R A P A C D N A B  
 I G H T I N G A L E O N  
 C U P S I N D P F C E  
 A U Q D O W  
 N F






## FILL IN THE BLANKS

Fill in the blanks in each sentence so that the second word is the same as the first word with a pair of double letters inserted, like BEAR and BEGGAR. (NEED A HINT? Check the bottom of the page.)

1. At the horse stables, there was a half-price \_\_\_\_\_ on pony rides, so Mom helped my little sister into the \_\_\_\_\_.
2. My cousins' video game collection is more interesting than \_\_\_\_\_ is, but it never \_\_\_\_\_ to us to ask to swap when we're together.
3. The toddlers at the kiddie pool sometimes \_\_\_\_\_ to their parents on the hot pool deck instead of \_\_\_\_\_ off in the water.

## OFF SIDES

Make three different five-letter words by using the letters given to fill in the blanks.

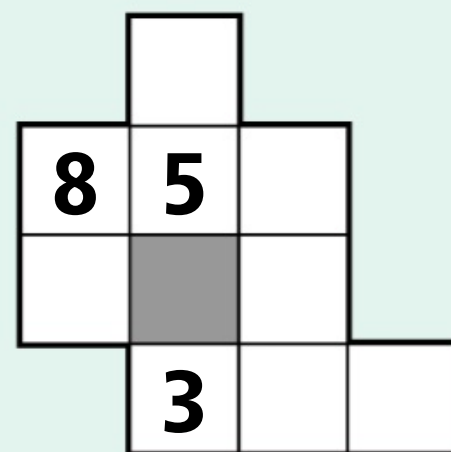
**B F G H S T**

**L A S**

L A S

L A S

## Out of order



The numbers 1 to 9 can fit, one per square, so that no two consecutive numbers are in squares that touch in any way, even at a corner. Use the numbers already given to figure out where the rest of the numbers go.

# Spot the difference

These two pictures of typical Hawaiian luau food appear to be the same, but take a closer look. There are actually five differences. Can you see them?







The birds want the good stuff.

## Penguins have expensive taste

When an aquarium in Japan changed up its daily meals, the penguins were not impressed. The birds were used to eating aji, a type of fish also known as Japanese horse mackerel. Aji prices soared this year, so the aquarium opted for a less expensive type of mackerel called saba. But the penguins refused to eat the second-rate fare, turning their beaks away and even spitting it back out when keepers offered it to them. Finally, they reached a compromise—the birds would try the cheap fish as long as it was mixed with some aji.



This mini-saurus isn't so scary.

## Miniscule dinosaur joins a humongous exhibit

A sculptor in the UK made a model of a Tyrannosaurus rex that's so small it can fit in the eye of a needle. The tiny dino is less than  $\frac{1}{50}$  of an inch long and has to be viewed through a microscope. Dr. Willard Wigan created it for a museum exhibition at the UK's Wollaton Hall, where it is now displayed alongside a real T. rex skeleton—the first to be exhibited in England for more than 100 years. Wigan said he wants his work to serve as a reminder: "Just because you don't see it, doesn't mean that it doesn't exist."



It's frankly impressive.

## A frankfurter feat

An Idaho man has recaptured the Guinness World Records title for the longest throw and catch of a hot dog into a bun. David Rush first earned the record in 2019 with a 105-foot game of catch. Others soon surpassed his distance, but he and some colleagues made a dogged effort to reclaim the title. They tried again and again until they landed a hot dog squarely in a bun from 167 feet away.

Real OR fake?



Was Bonnie the belle of the ball?

## Lost pup wins prize at dog show

The unexpected star of a UK dog show was a missing pet. John Wilmer was driving to the show with his two dogs when he spotted Bonnie, a 5-year-old beagle mix, by the side of the road. She had escaped from her owners' home and had no collar. Not wanting to be late to the competition, Wilmer brought Bonnie along. "She was such a lovely dog," he said, so he entered her in the contest and she won a ribbon. Is this story real, or is something about it hounding you?\*



Broccoli made beautiful

## Artist sculpts fish out of broccoli

A sculpture of a leaping fish made from a stalk of broccoli has been created in Japan. The sculptor, a chef and artist who goes by the name Gaku, specializes in a Japanese technique called *mukimono* that involves carving fruits and vegetables into amazing designs. Gaku has already made a rabbit out of an avocado, a flower from a watermelon, and a shrimp from a carrot. He spent three hours creating the broccoli fish, carving each individual scale in detail.

\*Real! Bonnie won third place in the rescue dog class and soon returned home to her owners with a yellow ribbon. "We're so thrilled she's safe and well and also a winner," they said. "She just thought she was having a great day out."





# Your turn

## Editor's note

When Klondike announced this week that it would stop making its Choco Taco ice cream treats after nearly 40 years, our team was sorry to hear it (p5). In fact, one of our staff meetings included a lively discussion of what made this frozen novelty so great. "It combined my favorite things—chocolate and tacos—in a perfect handheld snack," said staff writer Felissa. "It never disappointed," added associate editor Brielle. "It was sweet and creamy and packed a crunch." We were not the only ones talking about Choco Tacos. Thousands of people across the US begged Klondike to continue making them. A US senator even tweeted that he would invoke the Defense Production Act to require it. (He was kidding!) Klondike responded to the attention by saying it may bring back Choco Tacos at some point in the future. For now, we bid the treat a fond farewell.



Andrea Barbalich  
Editor-in-Chief



Andrew, 9, with Emma, 6, Colorado

## Protecting the polar bears

“My sister and I had an outdoor art and cookie sale to raise money to help save the polar bears. It was a beautiful summer day, and many people stopped by our sale to purchase art, cookies, and bookmarks. By the end of the

weekend, we had raised more than \$300 to donate to Polar Bears International (PBI). Our parents gave us Polar Bear Adoption Kits, which PBI sells, because they were so proud of us.”

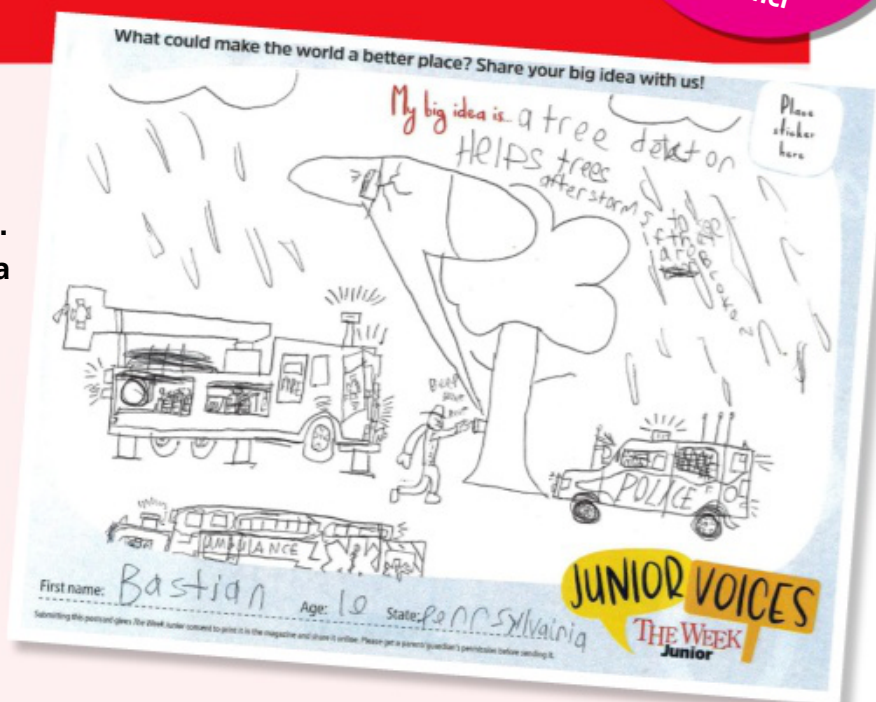
Have you done something interesting or raised money for a cause you care about? Whatever you're up to, we want to hear about it at [hello@theweekjunior.com](mailto:hello@theweekjunior.com).

**RIDDLE OF THE WEEK**  
What can you easily lift but can hardly throw at all?  
A feather

## JUNIOR VOICES

### Share your idea!

We know you have amazing ideas, and we want to hear them. To take part in Junior Voices, ask a parent or guardian to download a postcard at [theweekjunior.com/juniorvoices](http://theweekjunior.com/juniorvoices). Write or draw your idea for making the world a better place and send it to us at [hello@theweekjunior.com](mailto:hello@theweekjunior.com). Every idea counts! We'll feature more kids' ideas on this page in future issues.



## CHARITY OF THE WEEK



### Pickles Group

This organization provides support to school-age children whose parents or caregivers have been diagnosed with cancer. Volunteers with backgrounds in child psychology and education run programs that offer a space for children to share how they're feeling. The group provides helpful resources to families and hosts regular events with games and activities. Find out more at [picklesgroup.org](http://picklesgroup.org).



THE WEEK  
Junior

IT'S YOUR TURN

Email your news, views, and photos to [hello@theweekjunior.com](mailto:hello@theweekjunior.com).





## YOUR PHOTOS

We'd love to see pictures you've taken or pictures with you in them! Send them to us at [hello@theweekjunior.com](mailto:hello@theweekjunior.com), along with anything you'd like to tell us about what's in the photo.



"I made your sweet slushie recipe and it was delicious! My whole family enjoyed it." **Micah, 11, Wisconsin**

"It was so much fun to find the actual spiral staircase at the Convent of Christ in Portugal from a recent issue of *The Week Junior*." **Ronak (left), and Amisha, 9, North Carolina**



"My favorite sections of the magazine are the Book Club section, because I absolutely love books, and the That's Unbelievable section, because I love weird but true information." **Ben, 8, California**

## POPJAM

Sign up and follow @theweekjunior on PopJam, a social media platform for kids 7–12. Ask an adult to download the app from iTunes or Google Play.

We asked: What ride would you go on first at a water park?

"The fast ones. They are so fun!"

"The big slides that you go down in a tube with other people."

"Lazy river. You can peacefully relax."

"A racing slide so I could race my friends and family."

In the big debate, we asked: Is abstract art better than realistic art?

"No, people understand realistic art better."

"Abstract because there are no limits to what you can create."

"I like realistic with a twist of abstract."

"All that matters is that the artist likes it and is proud."

Now tell us: What is your favorite book you have read this summer and why?



## Teacher OF THE WEEK

Teacher's Name: **Mrs. White**

School: **Aquebogue Elementary School**

"Mrs. White gives us fun math strategies for learning multiplication and division tables.

She encourages us to read any genre we love. When we are writing, she also writes a funny story. We have 30-second dance parties, and she lets us play fun learning games. She made my third grade year the best! Thank you, Mrs. White."

**Ryan, 9, New York**

**Nominate your teacher for Teacher of the Week! Send your reason for the nomination, a photo of your teacher, and your school's name and address to [hello@theweekjunior.com](mailto:hello@theweekjunior.com).**



## Puzzle answers (from page 26)

### Word search

Unused letters:  
Hummingbirds can fly backward and upside down.

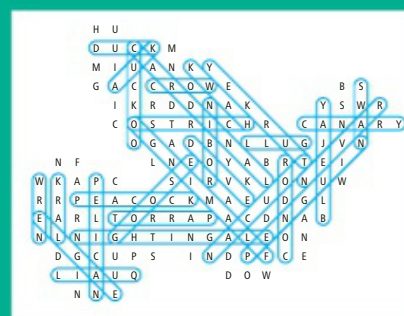
### Off sides

blast  
flash  
glass

### Fill in the blanks

1. sale, saddle  
2. ours, occurs  
3. cling, cooling

	2	
8	5	7
1		9
3	6	4



## Quiz answers (from page 30)

1 a) Dance 2 True 3 Carbon dioxide 4 c) Paris 5 c) 40% 6 False. They are siblings.  
7 Russia 8 True 9 Sir David Attenborough 10 c) 1959 11 True 12 a) China  
13 False. She follows a cat. 14 a) Annemiek van Vleuten 15 b) Fish

We want to hear from you! To have your letters, photos, nominations, recommendations, or ideas considered for inclusion in the magazine, please include your full name, age, and state with your submission. By emailing your submission to us, you give *The Week Junior* consent to publish it in the magazine and online. Please get your parent/guardian's permission before sending anything to us.





# Quiz of the week

## How much of this week's news can you remember?

**1** What do male wolf spiders do in order to attract female mates?

a) Dance b) Sing c) Jump

a ☐ b ☐ c ☐

**2** True or false? Jackie Robinson played in his first Major League Baseball game on April 15, 1947.

True ☐ False ☐

**3** What is the name of the gas that trees absorb from the atmosphere?

**4** In the book *The Pear Affair*, where does Penelope go to look for her former nanny?

a) London b) Milan c) Paris

a ☐ b ☐ c ☐

**5** Going forward, what percentage of the vehicles purchased by the US Postal Service will be electric?

a) 10% b) 33% c) 40%

a ☐ b ☐ c ☐

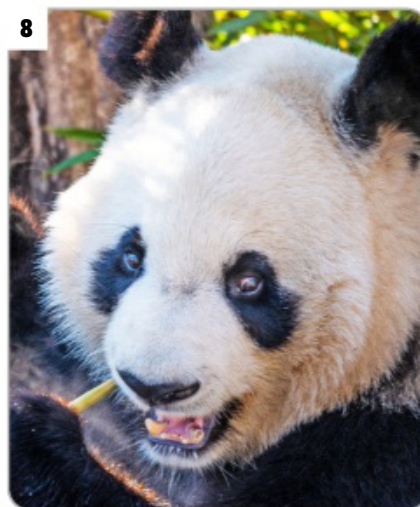
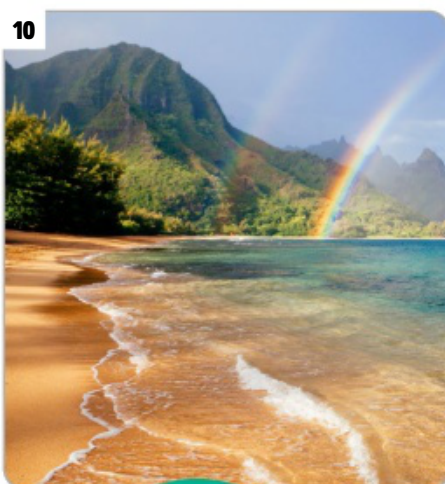
**6** True or false? The characters Toto and Gal from the video game *Lost in Play* are cousins.

True ☐ False ☐

**7** What country has announced that it will end its participation in the International Space Station?

**8** True or false? Pandas have a sixth digit on their paws that helps them eat bamboo.

True ☐ False ☐



**9** Who is the host of the new five-part nature series *The Green Planet*?

**10** When did Hawaii become a US state?

a) 1887 b) 1893 c) 1959

a ☐ b ☐ c ☐

**11** True or false? High numbers of bottlenose dolphins have been spotted close to New York City in recent years.

True ☐ False ☐

**12** In what country were the fossils of an unusual, sheep-sized ancestor of modern giraffes found?

a) China

b) Nigeria

c) South Africa

a ☐ b ☐ c ☐

**13** True or false? In the Apple TV+ movie *Luck*, the main character follows a rabbit into the Land of Luck.

True ☐ False ☐

**14** Who won the Tour de France Femmes cycling race?

a) Annemiek van Vleuten

b) Demi Vollering

c) Katarzyna Niewidoma

a ☐ b ☐ c ☐

**15** An artist in Japan sculpted what type of animal out of broccoli?

a) Cat b) Fish c) Rabbit

a ☐ b ☐ c ☐

## THE WEEK Junior

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The "sea stacks" of Torre Sant'Andrea in southern Italy were formed by the erosion of coastal cliffs above the Adriatic Sea.